

THE DIRECTOR OF
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

Executive Registry
83-4798

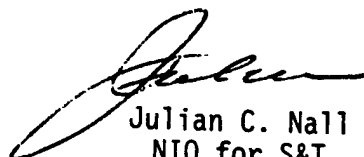
National Intelligence Council

3 October 1983

NOTE FOR THE DIRECTOR

Attached for your information are the background, talking points and agenda for your meeting with members of the "Futures Group" on the subject of "Defense Technology Forecast."

I will come to your office a short time before the meeting and escort you to the room.


Julian C. Nall
NIO for S&T

Attachments
As Stated

cc: DDCI
C/NIC



B-300

ADMINISTRATIVE INTERNAL USE ONLY

The technology forecasting panel which was convened by The Futures Group as part of a CIA External Research Contract is meeting to assess selected future military weapon systems and to determine the technological breakthroughs required to make these systems possible. Dr. Ted Gordon, President of The Futures Group, will chair the meeting. The Futures Group interviewed 32 scientists and futurists to develop concepts of future military systems. These concepts were then evaluated on the basis of: 1) strategic importance of threat; 2) likelihood of Soviet deployment; and 3) technical feasibility.

40 of the original 140 future weapon systems were selected for further analysis and evaluation. The panel will assess these systems and review the technical feasibility of each system within the next 15 to 25 years. We hope to establish a basis for predicting the introduction of new technology into foreign weapon systems or commercial products that might pose a threat to the security or economic well-being of the United States.

This meeting will select the most likely 15 to 20 weapons systems. The Futures Group will then conduct interviews with selected experts to determine the technological breakthroughs needed for each system and to assess the likelihood that the required breakthroughs will occur within the next 25 years.

OSWR in conjunction with the NIO for S&T will use these predicted technological breakthroughs to guide intelligence collection requirements and analysis in an effort to avoid technological surprise by the Soviets or other foreign countries.

Talking Points:

- a) Strong DCI and intelligence community interest in avoiding technological surprise.
- b) Increasing foreign competition in the development of new technology for weapon systems and commercial products.
- c) Seeking an ability to focus intelligence collection and analysis into those areas where a technological breakthrough is most likely to occur.
- d) DCI's direction to place an increased emphasis on assessing future Soviet technological threats.
- e) Importance of assistance from expert groups and individuals such as this panel.

ADMINISTRATIVE INTERNAL USE ONLY

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20505

DEFENSE TECHNOLOGY FORECAST

Agenda

Tuesday
October 4 9:00 a.m. DCI INTRODUCTION

Review of Study Objectives

The primary objective of the study is to develop time frames for predicting the introduction of new weapon systems, as well as competitive foreign products which pose threats to the United States over the next 20 to 30 years.

The purposes of this panel session are:

- 1) To review the results of our literature search and interviews with prominent futurists and weapon experts on:
 - a) expected technological breakthroughs in the next 20 to 30 years
 - b) new weapon systems expected in the next 20 to 30 years
- 2) To evaluate these findings and make preliminary judgments on the future weapon systems that merit special attention in the forecast
- 3) To begin to determine the key pacing technologies in these future weapon systems that will serve as the main focus of the remaining research
- 4) To determine the potential impact of Soviet and foreign technological innovation and weapon acquisition processes

9:30

Review and discussion of defense-related technological breakthroughs expected in the next 20 to 30 years (based on interviews and the literature search)

12:30 Lunch

1:30 Review of new weapon systems expected in the next 20 to 30 years (based on interviews and the literature search)

3:00 Discussion of additional weapon systems deemed likely by panel members

4:30 Selection of key potential weapon systems

Based on: Plausibility/technical feasibility

Strategic importance/degree of threat posed to US security or interests

Likelihood of Soviet or other foreign deployment

6:00 Cocktails and Dinner

Wednesday
October 5

9:00 a.m. Review of weapon systems selected

10:00 Detailed definition of selected weapon systems and determination of pacing technologies

12:15 Lunch

1:15 p.m. Discussion of Soviet and other foreign technological innovation and weapon acquisition processes

3:30 Preliminary effort to determine when and where new weapon systems might be deployed

5:30 Closing remarks